THE COCHIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

OFFICIAL REPORT OF THE BUDGET SESSION, 1117

Monday, *the* *3rd August 1942* / *18th Karkadagam 1117*

The Council met in the Council Hall, Ernakulam, at Eleven of the Clock with the Hon'ble President (A. F. W. DIXON Esq., C.I.E., I.C.S.), in the Chair.

Messrs. Ismail Hajee Essa Sait, Popatlal Goverdhan Lalan, T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar and H. J. Walmesley were absent.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

CHANGE IN NAME—VELLARAPPILLI TO SREEMOOLANAGARAM

51. Mr. P. K. Madhava Menon *(Narakkal)* : Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) when was the name "Vellarappilli District" changed into "Sreemoolanagaram District";

(*b*) what was the resolution passed by the Vellarappilli Panchayat on this subject and what were the recommendations made by that Panchayat; have Government taken any action thereon?

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development)* :

(*a*) In 1112.

(*b*) A copy of the resolution is appended. *(See Appendix)* The request was to change the name of the place into "Sreemoolanagaram" and it was allowed.

RURAL LIBRARIES

52. Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South)* : Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) whether the supply of books to the Rural Libraries has been entrusted to any body or firm;

(*b*) whether the Advisory Committee in connection with the Rural Libraries has ceased to function if it exists, or has it ceased to exist?

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development)* : (*a*) No.

(*b*) The Rural Library Committee has ceased to exist.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South)*: May I know when the supply of books is generally made?

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development)* : It is done in the course of the year.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South)* : In which particular month, please?

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development)* : For the last two years it was not done in any particular month. This year also it has not been completed.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South)*: May I know whether the books are supplied by the Government after purchasing from a number of shop-keepers or is any particular shop-keeper or firm asked to supply the books to the libraries?

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development)* : In 1116 the arrangement was that the Committee invited tenders and entrusted the supply of books to a contractor and from the files it is seen that there were some complaints regarding the supply. Even now that enquiry is not over. In 1117 the Committee wanted to purchase the books themselves and supply them to the libraries. The Government allowed the Committee to effect this purchase direct.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South)*: What exactly is the intention of the Government with regard to the purchase of books to be given this year?

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development)*: In 1117 the Committee has already made arrangements.

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Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South):* They have themselves purchased the books and stocked them and from this stock books will be issued to these libraries?

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development):* It is seen that the Committee entrusted the purchase to Mangalodayam Company. They have to supply to the Committee. As the Committee has ceased to exist now, the Honorary Secretary took over charge of these books and entrusted them to the Director of Public Health.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South):* May I know the reason why the Committee has been abolished?

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development):* The Committee was constituted to render advice to the Government as to the establishment of these rural libraries in the State. The Committee framed certain sets of rules and the libraries are being worked under these rules. The term of the Committee expired by the end of June and the Government thought that no further purpose would be served by continuing it. The Government thought that it was enough if they followed the directions laid down by the Committee.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South):* May I know whether this Committee was constituted as a result of any resolution or cut motion passed by this Hon'ble House?

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development):* I want notice.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South):* May I know Sir, what are the suggestions the Committee has made regarding the purchase of books?

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development):* They have not made any suggestion with regard to the purchase of books.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South):* What was the Committee doing with regard to the books that are to be sent to the rural libraries. As I understand, they exercised some sort of discretion with regard to the books that are supplied to the rural libraries. May I know what is being done now after the Committee has been abolished. May I also know who takes the place of the Committee in this matter?

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development):* With regard to the selection of books the present arrangement is this. The rural libraries will be asked to submit a list of books. This list will be sent to the Director of Public Instruction who will select the suitable books for these libraries and forward this approved list to the Director of Public Health and Panchayats who is the drawing Officer and he will invite tenders and make arrangements for the supply of books to the various libraries. The inspection work is also directed to be done by the Education Department because the Government thought that it was the Education Department that had got more facilities to inspect these libraries. I may say that this year the inspection is not yet over. According to the rules a lump sum amount of Rs. 25 is given to the libraries for management, and this amount can only be disbursed after the inspection is over. This year only very few institutions have been inspected and a majority remains uninspected and I have addressed the Director of Public Instruction to see whether this amount cannot be paid without the inspection so that the amount may not lapse.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South):* May I know what exactly is the reason for abolishing the Committee. Is it because they are ignorant in the discharge of their duties or is it because the Government thought that it should be under the Education Department?

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development):* Absolutely nothing of that sort. The Committee laid down certain rules for the conduct of the rural libraries. Personally I thought that the functions of the Committee were over.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South):* Does it mean that the scope of reference to the Committee or the constitution of the Committee was made only for the matter that they should frame a set of rules for the conduct of the libraries or for anything else?

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development):* The reference is to advise the Minister. The Minister has already got the advice of the Committee and it is not necessary that he should have their advice further.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South):* May I know whether it was the Minister who was actually consulted in the matter of the books or is it the library advisory committee?

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development):* The library Committee.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South):* May I know what prompted the Government to entrust this work to the Education Department?

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development):* Government thought that the Education Department was actually the one Department best fitted for the selection and inspection of these libraries.

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Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South)*: The Government thought that the democratic principle that is followed in the constitution of the Committee is not necessary and they would themselves do this work.

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction)*: Far from violating the principle of democracy the new arrangement was with a view to see that the democratic principle was fully realised. When the Committee was working, the actual selection of books was made by the Central Committee. The proposal for the future is that these rural libraries themselves should make the choice. Instead of the committee imposing the selection on the libraries, the libraries themselves will select the books. The only functions of the department would be to scrutinise this list and see if there are any books which are objectionable even for an adult to read, books which may be seditious, obscene, etc. The second function of the department would be to see that these libraries are properly maintained and that they are being utilised sufficiently by the public and whether any change in the rules should be made and doing the annual inspection and submit reports to Government. There is no question of any violation of the democratic principles.

മിസ്റ്റിസ്സ് തങ്കമ്മ എൻ. മേനോൻ: കമ്മിറ്റി ഫങ്ങ്ഷൻ ചെയ്തിരുന്നകാലത്തു് ഓരോ ലൈബ്രറിയിലേക്കും അവരുടെ ഇഷ്ടംപോലെയുള്ള പുസ്തകങ്ങൾ വരുത്തികൊടുത്തിരുന്നില്ലേ?

റാവു സാഹിബ്ബ് ഐ. എൻ. മേനോൻ: സാധാരണയായിട്ട് കമ്മിറ്റി സജസ്റ്റ് ചെയ്തിരുന്ന പുസ്തകം അവക്ക് അയച്ചുകൊടുത്തിട്ടുണ്ടായിരുന്നുവെന്നാണറിവു്.

മിസ്സിസ്സ് തങ്കമ്മ എൻ. മേനോൻ: അല്ല, അങ്ങിനെയല്ല.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters)*: Will the Hon'ble Minister say how the management of these libraries is conducted?

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development)*: A small Committee is constituted. The committee consists of one Panchayat Member, one local school master and three non-officials.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters)*: May I know who selects these members?

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development)*: The local people.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters)*: May I know whether these library committees are autonomous bodies and whether there is a membership?

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development)*: There is a set of rules for that. There are different classes of members paying 2 as 4 annas, etc. They have got a right to vote. They are completely autonomous.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South)*: Does the Government audit the accounts of these libraries?

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development)*: No separate audit is conducted. During the inspection by the Education Department, they conduct the audit of the accounts also.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South)*: May I know whether the Committee was appointed at the instance of the Council?

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development)*: My information is otherwise. I want notice for a correct answer.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi)*: May I know whether the members of these Committees were paying occasional visits to these libraries?

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development)*: Yes. That is my information.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi)*: Who is doing that work now? Who will do the inspection work now?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction)*: The Deputy Inspector of Schools, the Head-master of the local High School, the Chief Inspector and the Director of Public Instruction.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi)*: You have mentioned the names of certain high sounding officers. Will these officers have time to look into these matters apart from their normal duties?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction)*: Certainly they will have time.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South)*: May I know whether all these members are not Government servants?

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development)*: They are Government servants.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South)*: As I understand it the underlying idea is that these rural libraries should be managed by the people of the locality. Then why should there be an imposition of a Government body inspecting it from time to time.

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Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development):* The Panchayats are autonomous bodies. The accounts maintained by the Panchayats are inspected by Government Officers. In the same way these libraries are given funds from the general revenues and it is the duty of the Government to see how these amounts are utilised, whether the libraries are working properly and if they are not working properly, that amount should be utilised for some other purposes.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi):* Those are Departments where the Minister has control.

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development):* I may say, for the information of the House, that, in the matter of the selection of the books and the inspection of the libraries, the Director of Public Instruction will take orders from the Minister.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* May I know who owns these libraries ?

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister or Rural Development):* The local Committee. But it is Government property.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* Is an agreement taken from the managing body ?

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development):* A set of rules has been framed and they are working under these rules and one rule definitely states that all the articles belong to Government. If it is found that the Committee is not working properly, the Government will give notice and the articles will be taken over by Government.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South):* Is it the position of the Hon'ble Minister that to the extent of this inspection, the Education Department will be under the control of the Minister.

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development):* I have already explained the position. Regarding these libraries the Director will take orders from the Minister.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South):* May I know whether there was any special reason for this particular change.

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development):* I have explained that position clearly before. The term of the Committee expired and I thought that the present arrangement might be tried for one year and if it was not found suitable, it is open for us to have the necessary changes.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi):* May I know whether the Diwan has agreed to this arrangement the Director of Public Instruction taking orders from the Minister.

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development):* There is no Diwan and there is no Minister in the case of the Governmant. It is the Government who have ordered.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South):* May I know the period for which the Committee was appointed.

Mr. K. S. Panicker *(Ezhuvas-Mukundapuram):* A term was fixed.

Mrs. Thankamma N. Menon *(Ernakulam-Women):* A term was not fixed. I was a member of the Committee.

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development):* It was an omission on the part of the Government and that mistake was rectified.

Mr. T. S. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Chittur-Tattamangalam):* Is it not a fact that before the present arrangement, the Sanitary Inspectors were asked to go and inspect these libraries.

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development):* Yes, it was a fact. I got very many complaints.

"MALABAR MAIL"—SUB-LEADER

53. **Mr. C. V. Iyyu** *(Kunnamkulam):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) whether Government have perused the Sub-Leader in column 2 of page 2 of the "Malabar Mail" dated 25th June 1942 under the caption "മലബാറിലോ".

(*b*) whether Government be pleased to inform the action of Government to keep up the good reputation of the State in the affair mentioned in article referred to in (*a*) ?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) This Government in consultation with the Government of India are taking steps to strengthen the supervising staff, so as to prevent a repetition of such incidents.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South):* May I know what are the points contained in the article.

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* It dealt with certain unhappy incidents that occured at Cuttack.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South):* With regard to what ?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* With regard to the labour force.

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